

REMARKS

Claims, 2, 6-8, 10-11 and 13-14 have been cancelled, as requested.

Claim 1, 5 and 9 have been amended.

It appears that the Examiner's comments with regard to Claim 4 actually were directed at Claim 5. The changes referred to in the Official Action have been made in Claim 5.

Also, the amendments noted as being necessary in Claim 9 have been made. However, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 12 is correct as written.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 9 and 12 as being unpatentable over Onodera, 6,1012,576, in view of Paley, 5,988,371, is respectfully traversed.

The broadest pending claims have been amended to recite the use of from 0.05% to 0.5% hydrogen peroxide in the container. This is even further below the minimum level of 1%, in Onodera's recited use of from 1% to 5% hydrogen peroxide, so as to further remove the claimed invention from the prior art.

The Examiner alleges that in Column 3, lines 1-11, Onodera describes the entire inventive concept of the deliberate decomposition of the hydrogen peroxide. This is not correct. Actually, Onodera states that the concentration of the bactericidal liquids, including hydrogen peroxide, is sufficient

to kill bacteria for up to a half a year. There is absolutely no statement or implication in the language cited that the bactericidal liquid decomposes at all; to the contrary, there is a strong implication that the bactericidal qualities of the material remains vital for a very long time.

As it has been stated before, the invention is based upon the use of an amount of hydrogen peroxide which is enough to kill any bacteria which may initially be present when the package is closed, but which is certain to decompose promptly thereafter. Thus, it has the unexpected advantage that, by decomposing into benign substances, there remains no hydrogen peroxide in the solution or in the sponge brush when the customer removes it from the package for use in scrubbing.

Thus, quite unexpectedly and unobviously, the invention utilizes the supposed disadvantage of decomposition of the bactericide to achieve a significant advantage in cleanliness and lack of contamination. There is no suggestion of this in Onodera or any of the other cited references.

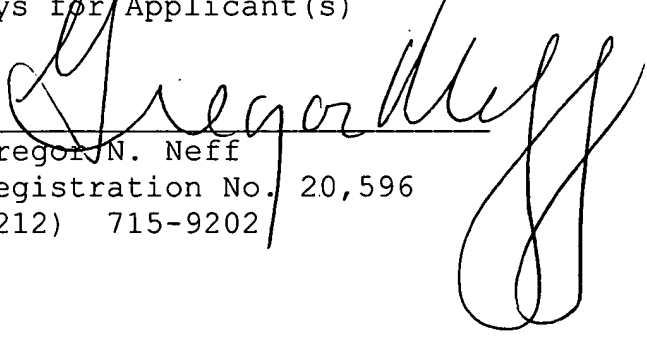
In summary, because the claims have been amended so as to take them even further away from the prior art than in the past, and because of the unexpected and unobvious results produced by the invention, it is respectfully submitted that the claims recite an unobvious invention.

It is respectfully requested that the claims be  
allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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